

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

NA-MFO

Reply to: 3410/3460

Date: October 28, 1993

Subject: Aerial Survey, Allegheny National Forest

To: Forest Supervisor
Allegheny National Forest

On August 9, 1993, John Omer and James Dobson, FHP, Morgantown, conducted an aerial survey for recent forest pest damage on the Allegheny National Forest (ANF). The accompanying map shows the general location and type of damage observed.

Moderate to severe defoliation was observed over much of the forest, and through ground checking four major defoliators were identified: gypsy moth, *Lymantria dispar* (L.); elm spanworm, *Ennomos subsignarius* (Hubner); forest tent caterpillar, *Malacosoma disstria* (Hubner); and cherry scallop shell moth, *Hydria prunivora* (Ferguson). The following table shows the acreage breakdown for each district and the totals by each pest, the acreage indicated is all ANF property.

Moderate-Severe Defoliation in Acres

| District | Gypsy Moth | Elm Spanworm | Forest Tent Caterpillar | Cherry Scallop Shell Moth | Total |
|-------------|------------|--------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|---------|
| Bradford | 1,975 | 34,725 | 2,640 | 0 | 39,340 |
| Marienville | 0 | 97,510 | 0 | 1,540 | 99,050 |
| Ridgway | 0 | 100,470 | 1,590 | 2,300 | 104,360 |
| Sheffield | 0 | 28,025 | 0 | 0 | 28,025 |
| TOTALS | 1,975 | 260,730 | 4,230 | 3,840 | 270,775 |

Approximately 270,775 acres of oak, northern hardwood and Allegheny hardwood forest types were defoliated. This is a marked increase from the 1991 and 1992 survey which indicated approximately 23,000 and 44,000 acres affected, respectively. The majority of the damage was caused by the elm spanworm with an approximate ten-fold increase in defoliated acres over last year. Preliminary work to support a potential suppression project for this pest is ongoing. Defoliation by gypsy moth caterpillars shows a dramatic decrease when compared to the past two years. The survey to delineate potentially defoliating populations for 1994 is nearly complete.

If you have any questions regarding this survey, please contact John Omer at J.Omer:S24L08A or (304) 285-1544.

Thank you for your continued cooperation

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter A. Rush". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Peter" being more prominent.

PETER A. RUSH
Field Representative
Forest Health Protection

Enclosure

cc: Marienville RD
Ridgway RD
Bradford RD
Sheffield RD
AO
Russ McKinney, RO
Monty Maldonado, RO
Bob White ✓

JRO/PAR/mae